

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05

SY-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /079 W

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R 041006Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 782

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: THAI SECURITY GUARD STRIKE

REF: BANGKOK 17929 (DTG)

SUMMARY: THE THAI SECURITY GUARD STRIKE APPEARS TO BE OVER. AN ESTIMATED 2100 FORMER GUARDS HAVE PICKED UP THEIR COMPENSATION PAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. MOST HAVE GATHERED UP THEIR BELONGINGS AND GONE HOME. DISTURBANCES CONTINUE, HOWEVER, AS A SMALL BAND OF DIE-HARDS AND NON-GUARD AGITATIONS REMAIN AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE DEMANDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, BUT THE RTG HAS SHOWN LITTLE OF ITS FORMER SYMPATHY AND TOLERANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE THAI SECURITY GUARD STRIKE APPEARS TO HAVE REACHED AN END. AN ESTIMATED 2100 FORMER GUARDS HAVE RECEIVED THEIR COMPENSATION PAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND ON 26 AUGUST BANKIT THONGOUAN, PROTEST LEADER, TOLD RTG OFFICIALS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER HAD
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BEEN ACCEPTED AND THE PROTESTERS WERE GOING HOME.

2. HOWEVER, 200-300 PROTESTERS PLUS FAMILIES, REMAIN OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THE PROTESTERS, LED BY STUDENT ACTIVIST SUCHAO THITPHANET, INCLUDE PRIMARILY FORMER GUARDS WHO EITHER QUIT OR WERE FIRED BEFORE THE JUNE 8 STRIKE AND ARE THEREFORE NOT ENTITLED TO THE SETTLEMENT. THE GROUP HAD ATTACKED BANKIT FOR CALLING OFF THE STRIKE AND FOR ALLEGED MISUSE OF STRIKE FUNDS, AND HAS CHOSEN FOR ITS LEADERSHIP A 15-MAN COMMITTEE WITH SUCHAO AS SPOKESMAN. THE PROTESTERS ARE DEMANDING 20,000 BAHT IN CASH AND A PLOT OF LAND FROM THE RTG AS COMPENSATION FOR THEIR INELIGIBILITY TO BENEFIT FROM THE STRIKE.

3. THE RTG, WHICH HAD BEEN REMARKABLY PATIENT WITH THE GUARDS AS THE ORIGINAL STRIKE DRAGGED ON, SHOWS SIGNS OF IMPATIENCE WITH THIS RUMP GROUP. PRESS REPORTS QUOTE A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN (MP) AS STATING THE GOVERNMENT, BY CABINET DECISION, WILL NOT ENTER INTO ANY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PROTESTERS NOR WILL IT MAKE ANY FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO THEIR DEMANDS. BOTH THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AND MINISTER PRIDA HAVE ALSO STATED THAT THE USG WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS.
WHITEHOUSE

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